

The proposed new fax rules will seriously hurt all businesses, particularly associations, causing hardships and expenses that could lead to further destruction of the U.S. economy. The added administrative and financial burden created by the proposed regulations could lead to the dissolution of many small businesses, particularly associations, which exist to promote the industries that we represent.

-By definition, associations have an "established business relationship" with our members. They count on us for their continued education (a requirement for many industries, such as doctors), updates on and training about new regulations, and other information concerning their profession.

-This new rule will require extensive reconfiguration of all computer systems, which is very costly, as well as numerous mailings to members, vendors and other non-member groups accustomed to looking to us for meetings, publications, affinity benefits, and the other benefits that we offer.

-Numerous concerns about the new regulations remain, including exactly which transmissions the FCC would interpret as commercial in nature, whether written consent to a national association would extend to chapter or affiliate faxes, and whether a written consent form would expire with membership, for example.

-As for our members, if I as a patient am referred to a specialist and ask him to fax a copy of his report to my general practitioner, will he need to call her to ask her to fax him a signed letter requesting the information? This wastes both doctors time and takes away from the amount of time in the day to see patients.

Although I know the spirit behind these proposed regulations is to reduce frustration, it will instead increase frustration, and for the buyer of goods and services, as well as the seller. The ramifications of these regulations must be thought through more fully before putting them into practice.

Thank you for your consideration.